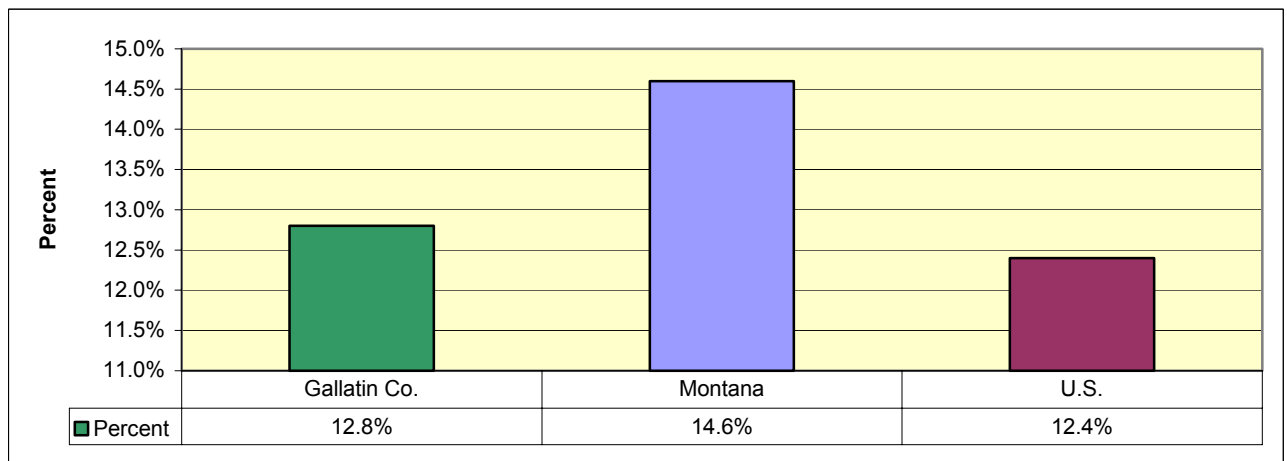


Poverty Level: Recent data indicates that Montana ranks 5th in the nation for those living below the poverty level. This indicator is a particularly useful measure of health as studies show a direct correlation between income and health. Those who have fewer financial resources have greater barriers to accessing healthcare resources.

Gallatin County numbers show that 12.8% of the population is below the poverty level. This is slightly higher than the national percentage of 12.4%, but lower than Montana's percentage of 14.6%. Within Gallatin County, Bozeman has the greatest percentage of those living in poverty (20.2%). Single-mother families comprise the highest percentage of families living in poverty within the county.

Percent of Population Below Poverty Level, 1999



Source: U.S. Census 2000